



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q58637

Atsushi UCHINO

Appln. No.: 09/544,544

Group Art Unit: 2739

Confirmation No.: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Examiner: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed: April 06, 2000

For: NODE-SEARCH METHOD, DEVICE, AND MEDIUM ON WHICH A
NODE-SEARCH PROGRAM IS RECORDED

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the document which is listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

A copy of the listed document is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under § 1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 09/544,544

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q58637

37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, since a Statement can be made, one is submitted herewith.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version of that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

Also, the submission of the attached English language abstract along with Japanese Patent Laid-open No. 8-147231 constitute a concise statement of relevance of the reference.

The submission of the listed document is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE



23373

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: March 6, 2003



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The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Mexico

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Date: March 6, 2003